

Draft Letter

To: State and City & County of Honolulu Agencies that address Domestic Violence within Intimate Relationships

Re: Framework to Improve Domestic Violence Response

Date: (fill in)

The Domestic Violence Response Task Force (DVRTF) was established by the City and County of Honolulu, City Council Resolution No. 15-25, FD1, on February 18, 2015, to make recommendations for the Honolulu Police Department, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Community Agencies, and Domestic Violence Service Providers to improve training on, reporting, and monitoring of domestic violence cases. Refer to <http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-2097>.

While developing recommendations, the DVRTF has identified a model framework that can be applied to the State and City and County of Honolulu agencies. The framework is an optimal, client-centered response to domestic violence, and is aligned with evidence-based principles. The DVRTF is requesting your participation to review the enclosed "Domestic Violence Response, A Community Framework for Maximizing Women's Safety". After reviewing the framework, please complete the DVRTF Domestic Violence Response Framework Questionnaire by (date). The framework and questionnaire can be used to identify your organizational strengths, assess progress, and identify gaps and in your organization.

Should the completed questionnaires be submitted to the DVRTF? If so, then need to include a statement about how the information collected will be used.

The framework and questionnaire are designed to be used at the community level, but has the flexibility to be used at an organizational level. We hope you will find the tool useful in your work to address domestic violence.

Thank you for reviewing the framework and completing the questionnaire.

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DVRTF

Domestic Violence Response Framework Questionnaire¹

Principle 1: Focus on risk assessment and safety planning as strategies.

Principle 2: Apply a gender lens when developing and implement responses.

Principle 3: Promote coordination as a 'Best Practice' in responding to domestic violence.

Principle 4: Promote responsiveness of services including timeliness, proactivity, advocacy, empowerment and respectful treatment.

Principle 5: Facilitate effective and appropriate information sharing while maintaining principles of confidentiality.

Principle 6: Develop strategies to address barriers to domestic violence victims' participation in the justice system.

Principle 7: Include a focus on prevention.

Principle 8: Build monitoring, evaluation, and accountability into all responses.

For each of the principles in this Framework, the following questions will assist your organization to assess its strengths, assess progress made, and to identify potential gaps in your organization's response.

1. What is your organization doing to address this principle? How is this principle incorporated into your responses to domestic violence?
2. What are the gaps/needs in your organization in terms of implementing this principle?
3. What resources does your organization have? What are the assets your organization can build on? Could your organization be approaching this work differently? Can your organization change the way it works to improve collaboration?
4. What is your organization's priority in terms of improving implementation of this principle?
5. What will be your organizations next steps to improve implementation of this principle?
6. Who will take these steps, what specifically will they do, and by when?

¹ Victim Services & Crime Prevention Division, Ministry of Public Service Domestic Violence Response, A Community Framework for Maximizing Women's Safety (January 2010)

Note: Questionnaire has been modified. The word "community" has been changed to "organization", and the word "our" has been changed to "your."